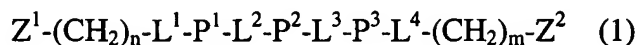


CLAIMS

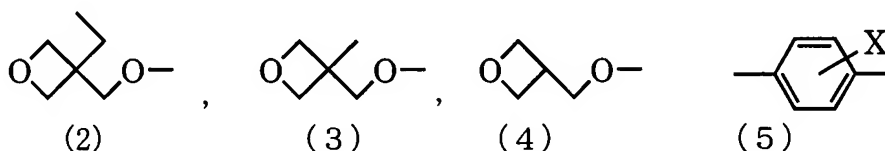
We claim:

1. A liquid crystalline oxetane compound represented by the formula:



- 5 wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are each independently a group represented by any one of formulas (2), (3) and (4) below, L^1 , L^2 , L^3 , and L^4 each independently indicate direct bond or are a group represented by any of -O-, -O-CO-, or -CO-O-, P^1 and P^2 are each independently a group represented by formula (5) below, and P^3 indicates direct bond or is a group represented by formula (5) below, n and m are each independently an integer of 0 to 8;

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wherein X is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, or halogen.

- 15 2. The liquid crystalline oxetane compound according to claim 1 wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are each independently a group represented by formula (2), L^1 and L^4 are each independently a group of -O-, L^2 is a group of -CO-O-, L^3 is a group of -O-CO-, P^1 and P^3 are each independently 1,4-phenylene group, and P^2 is 1,4-phenylene group or methyl-substituted 1,4-phenylene group.
3. A polymerizable liquid crystalline composition containing at least 10 percent by mass or
- 20 more of the liquid crystalline oxetane compound of claim 1.
4. The polymerizable liquid crystalline composition according to claim 3 containing a photo cation generator and/or a thermal cation generator.
5. A method of producing a liquid crystal film wherein a layer of the polymerizable liquid crystalline composition of claim 3 is formed on an alignable film so as to be aligned in a liquid
- 25 crystal orientation and then polymerized with light and/or heat to fix the aligned structure.

6. An optical film comprising a liquid crystal film produced by the method of claim 5.

7. The optical film according to claim 6 having a function as any one selected from a uniaxial or twisted retardation film, a cholesteric orientation-type circular polarizing reflection film, and a nematic hybrid orientation-type compensation film.

5 8. A liquid crystal display equipped with at least one optical film of claim 6.

9. A method of producing a liquid crystal film wherein a layer of the polymerizable liquid crystalline composition of claim 4 is formed on an alignable film so as to be aligned in a liquid crystal orientation and then polymerized with light and/or heat to fix the aligned structure.

10. A liquid crystal display equipped with at least one optical film of claim 7.